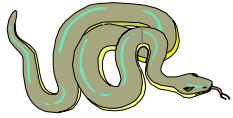

Pet Reptiles

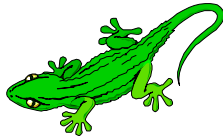


Reptiles can be enjoyable, fascinating pets. However, reptiles (such as lizards, snakes, turtles, and iguanas) can be carriers of *Salmonella* bacteria. Even healthy reptiles can have this bacteria in their

feces. Laboratory tests aren't always able to detect it, and antibiotics can't always eliminate it. *Salmonella* can cause severe illness, even death, in people. A person doesn't even have to have direct contact with the reptile. For instance, a mother who handles the pet can transmit the bacteria to her child through touching.

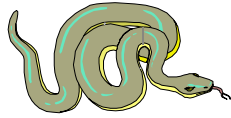
SAFETY TIPS FOR REPTILE OWNERS

- ▶ Persons should always wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling reptiles or reptile cages.
- ▶ Persons at increased risk for infection or serious complications of salmonellosis (e.g., children aged <5 years and immunocompromised persons) should avoid contact with reptiles.
- ▶ Pet reptiles should be kept out of households where children aged <5 years or immunocompromised persons live. Families expecting a new child should remove the pet reptile from the home before the infant arrives.
- ▶ Pet reptiles should not be kept in childcare centers.
- ▶ Pet reptiles should not be allowed to roam freely throughout the home or living area.
- ▶ Pet reptiles should be kept out of kitchens and other food-preparation areas to prevent contamination. Kitchen sinks should not be used to bathe reptiles or to wash their dishes, cages, or aquariums.



Contact your local health department if you have questions about *Salmonella*.

Pet Reptiles

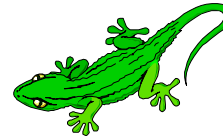


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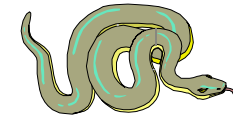
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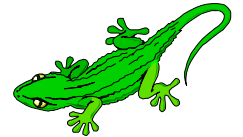


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